

## 2016 Children's Justice Conference Agenda

**7:45 – 8:15 – Registration**

**8:15 – 8:30 - Welcome**

**8:30 – 8:45 – Opening Remarks: Chief Justice Gilbertson**

**8:45 – 10:15 – Keynote: Keith Edmonds**

*This presentation is a story of the resilience of the human will, the courage to face one's demons, and the ability to emerge from a childhood of anguish as a more courageous person. As a fourteen month-old baby, he was forced to forever bear the evidence of his torture, but he ultimately came to see that only through FORGIVENESS could he begin to embrace his physical differences. A survivor is someone who chooses to see the power in forgiveness and a life of worship. A survivor is someone who faces the cruelty in the world and gives back more than could ever be imagined.*

**10:15 – 10:30 – Break**

**10:30 – 12:00 – Morning Session: Dr. Sue Cornbluth**

Parent Empowerment; Parenting Beyond Trauma:

*Children's trust becomes shattered when they experience or witness traumatic events. They may begin to experience difficulties trusting the people closest to them, including their parents. In spite of this trauma, Dr. Sue will share her tools and techniques to empower professionals and parents to learn how to move children through trauma by increasing their self-esteem. Trauma does not have to stop children from reaching their fullest potential.*

**12:00 – 1:30 Lunch (on your own)**

**1:30 – 3:00 – Afternoon Session: Dr. Jerry Yager, Psy. D.**

Developmental Consequences of Maltreatment and Implications for Interventions:

*A child's brain development is profoundly influenced by his or her experience. Adverse experiences such as abuse, neglect or exposure to violence can shape the organization of the brain which, in turn, influences the capacity of the brain to help a child think, feel and behave. The impact of any event is likely to be most profound on the systems in the brain which are most rapidly developing. Therefore, depending upon the specific time in development that the maltreatment took place, as well as the specific nature of adverse experience, a range of problems can arise, from delayed development to impulsivity to severe emotional problems. When the exposure to violence is compounded by the loss*

*and protection of the child's primary caregivers brain development becomes particularly vulnerable and the spectrum of symptoms exhibited expand. Understanding the origins of these problems and to develop effective interventions is one of the major challenges for professionals working with traumatized children.*

*Objectives:*

*Participants will gain an understanding of why early childhood and adolescent exposure to violence have such a disproportionate impact on development.*

*Participants will gain an understanding of how the child's relational environment either facilitates or inhibits brain development*

*Participants will learn why interventions must be designed with an awareness of the youth's developmental age and their current state of functioning to be effective.*

**3:00 – 3:15 – Break**

**3:15 – 4:45 – Closing Session: VJ Smith**

Simple Choices; Big Rewards:

*Each day we are judged by the choices we make. In our personal lives and our business lives, we are faced with simple choices on how we interact with the people around us. In this talk, the speaker focuses on five major situations we face each day. This is a lively, sometimes humorous and a thought provoking message.*

**4:45 – 5:00 – Closing Remarks**